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Transcript

Newsletter of the Orange County Public Law Library

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Have You Done Your Time?

by Steven Nadolny, Catalog Technician

Like doctors, dentists and other professionals, attorneys need “school,” too, to maintain their state licenses with the State Bar. Minimum Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) refers to the approved continuing legal education required of California attorneys. And to ensure that lawyers receive quality legal education, the State Bar approves MCLE providers and education activities. 25 hours is required of attorneys every three years. Members must fulfill at least one-half of their MCLE requirement with activities approved for “participatory” MCLE credit. But 12.5 hours can be “self-study” hours – and here is how OCPLL can help!


To supplement the part of our collection that assists with legal professional development, the Library has recently added these titles to our collection:

The State Bar of California's 12 hour MCLE Solution (an audio cassette program), AUDIO SBC 67 Tape. And on audio cd's: *Estate Planning for the Blended Family* ["MCLE total credit hours: 2.75 hours (includes .5 hours in legal ethics); specialization credit: 2.75 hours in estate planning, trust, and probate; 2.75 hour in family law; 2 hours in taxation law"], AUDIO CEB 1058 CD, *Cross-Over Issues in Estate Planning and Dissolution: When Death and Divorce Collide* ["MCLE total credit hours: 2.75. includes: .5 hours in legal ethics. specialization credit: 2.75 hours in estate planning, trust, and probate law. 2.75 hours in family law"], AUDIO CEB 1057 CD, *Summary Judgment and Other Dispositive Motions* ["MCLE total credit hours: 3"], AUDIO CEB 1056 CD, *What Every Business Lawyer Needs to Know About Outsourcing* ["MCLE total credit hours: 3"], AUDIO CEB 1055 CD, and *Common Interest Developments from the Ground Up* ["MCLE total credit hours: 3.25"], AUDIO CEB 1053 CD.

There are also special subject requirements within the required hours: legal ethics (4 hours), detection/prevention of substance abuse (1 hour) and elimination of bias in the legal profession (1 hour).


Have you renewed your OCPLL membership? Have you submitted your compliance card?**

**California's attorney membership is divided into 3 compliance groups. Compliance periods for the three groups are staggered, so that each group reports compliance in a different year. Compliance periods are 36 months (3 years) in length.

Just prior to the end of a group's compliance period, the State Bar sends compliance cards to those who must comply that year. Reporting deadlines for each compliance group are listed on The State Bar of California web page http://www.calbar.ca.gov/state/calbar/calbar_extend.jsp?cid=10138, along with information about the breakdown of the 25-hour education requirement. 

PARDON OUR DUST

by Mora Prestinary, Reference Librarian

As you've probably already noticed, the Library is undergoing some structural changes. Yes, there is some dust and noise. And re-arranging. But it is to serve you better, our dear patrons. Ask the Staff for help in finding materials, we are prepared. You also won't be seeing any book displays for a while. So please pardon our dust while we finish what we started. It will all be over before you know it and the Library will be better than ever! 

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HUMOR IN THE LAW

By John Patrick Quigley

In celebration of a decade of *Transcript* publication, here is a collection of legal humor included in articles through the years:

“THOSE GOOD OLD LAWS: HISTORICAL RESEARCH AT O.C.L.L.” (August 1997): Does thinking about community property give you heartburn and keep you awake at night? Try referring to an old Michigan statute that says a husband owns his wife's clothes. And if she leaves him, he can follow her on the street and remove every article of said clothing.... *The Trenton Pickle Ordinance, and Other Bone-head Legislation*, KF387.H85...

“DIOGENES LOOKS FOR A LAWYER - AND SO CAN YOU!” (November 1998):

I wonder what spirits filled an attorney who reported to the court that divine guidance told him: "That I should not go to court on Thursday or Friday and that He instructed me not to even call in on Friday, and that is why I did not come in, and when He allows me to come in, I come in. I go where He allows me to go and I do what He tells me to do. I cannot let any court supersede that. That is a right set up by the founding fathers of this country." *Disorder in the Court*, K184.S48.

“HOW TO LEARN MORE ABOUT JUDGES” (May 1999):

Some profiles include a judge's own assessment of his style, but none are as revealing as that reported in *Disorderly Conduct*, K184.J66...

“I have that gift. It is a tremendous gift and not many judges have the tremendous gift of fairness. It is something that I have to admit, and I admit it with a great deal of pride, but with a great deal of humility. I have it. I have an information, so to speak. It is what has made me a good student in constitutional law. I suppose so. It is what made it possible for me to perhaps pass the bar examination without an error in the entire examination that I went through.

“I have that gift of fairness. I also have a gift of comprehensive thinking. I think all the way around every subject and get its interrelated parts and put them together as I go piece by piece, step by step. I have this, and I almost have the gift of reading minds and the thoughts of the individual.”

Wow, all that and humility too!

(Continued on page 3)




Ask a Librarian

Question of the Quarter

by Lu Nguyen, Reference Librarian

Q. Where can I locate Orange County ordinances?

A. Orange County Ordinances can be located at this web site : <http://www.municode.com/resources/gateway.asp?pid=11378&sid=5> or <http://www.municode.com/>. The Library has print copies of the Ordinances. 

LOOKING AT THE WEB

by Mora Prestinary, Reference Librarian



Tax forms sites:

- ✧ California Franchise Tax Board has forms going back to 1985.

<http://www.ftb.ca.gov/>

- ✧ The IRS has forms going back to 1990:

<http://www.irs.ustreas.gov/formspubs/index.html>

Legal humor sites:

- ✧ Legal Laughs: questions from lawyers were taken from official court records nationwide.

<http://southwell.rsbandb.com/legal.html>

- ✧ Reports odd or amusing legal events in the news to legal humor enthusiasts worldwide.

<http://www.legalhumour.com/home.asp> 

“THE BRAVE NEW WORLD WILL HAVE LOTS OF LAWYERS” (November 2000):

If there is a bizarre way of doing what comes naturally, Californians will try it out. Before he committed suicide, William Kane determinedly saved twelve vials of his sperm and bequeathed them to his lover. Nobody knows why he decided to enliven the lives of Probate Court personnel, but after his death his ex-wife, a lawyer, filed suit on behalf of their children to destroy the potential half-siblings. Perhaps reflecting Kane’s plan, the case went back and forth between the Probate and Appellate Courts for five years, while the lover’s biological clock ticked away....Read more about this and similar cases in “WHO’S YOUR DADDY?...” at *14 Journal of Contemporary Health Law & Policy* 187 (1997), K10.O8575.

“CAVEAT VENDOR: PRODUCTS LIABILITY” (May 2001):

Trying to limit their liability, providers post warning labels, often amusing, as reported from the Internet. (Patrons assure me that if it’s on the Internet, it must be true.) On Mark & Spencer bread pudding, we have: “Product will be hot after heating.” On a Roweta iron packaging: “Do not iron clothes on body.” On a Sears hairdryer: “Do not use while sleeping.” On Nytol sleep aid: “Warning: may cause drowsiness.” On Sainsbury’s peanuts: “Warning: contains nuts.” Finally, on a Superman costume: “Wearing of this garment does not enable you to fly.”

“WOMEN’S RIGHTS - ANOTHER VIEW” (November 2002):

An unhappy client complained about the service provided by her attorney. After listening to her problems, he reportedly advised her “you’ve been a bad girl” and spanked her, on two separate occasions. You won’t find that remedy in Dobbs! A recent movie, *The Secretary*, may have been inspired by a state commission’s finding that the attorney also disciplined his secretary’s typographical errors with weekly spankings. It was reported that other local lawyers, who were aware of this rascal’s antics, referred to his firm as “Spanky and the Gang”. Attorney Grievance Commission of Maryland v. Goldsborough (1993), 330 Maryland Reports 342, KFM1245.A2.

“CONSTRUCTION LAW” (February 2003).

An example of a danger of modern construction is a lawyer who crashed through a skyscraper’s window with his shoulder and fell twenty-four floors to his death. A police spokesman said he was demonstrating the strength of the windows to visiting law students. The managing partner of his firm told the *Toronto Sun* newspaper that he was “one of the best and brightest” members of the two-hundred-man association. (He is not the only lawyer to crash through a skyscraper window. See www.darwinawards.com.)

“DIRECT DEMOCRACY: BALLOT PROPOSITIONS” (August 2004):

Studying propositions and their supporting arguments is useful in determining original intent, and can also be entertaining. For example, arguments for prohibition propositions, in 1914, 1916 and 1918, provide a slice of history circa World War I: “Immigrants from Europe are generally liquor drinkers. ‘Dry’ the state and turn them elsewhere.”

“Winston, you’re drunk.”

“Bessie, you’re ugly. But tomorrow I shall be sober.” [Winston Churchill]

“ALL ABOUT JURIES” (May 2005)

Sometimes anticipated misconduct may just be wishful thinking. A prosecution witness refused to testify what defendant said while kissing her, because it was “too embarrassing”, so she wrote it on a piece of paper. This was passed among the jurors until an attractive female juror passed it to the last juror, a male who had dozed off. After reading it, he smiled at the lady and put it in his pocket. When the Judge ordered him to give it to the bailiff, he refused, saying it was personal. *Legalaffs* (page 102), K184.K4.📖



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TECHNOLOGY AT ORANGE COUNTY PUBLIC LAW LIBRARY

LEGAL RESEARCH PROGRAMS

Witkin titles
Authority-Matthew Bender titles
Premise- Rutter Group

INTERNET ACCESS & DATABASES

LegalTrac- Legal Periodical
Citations
HeinOnLine- Federal Register,
U.S. Reports,
Law Reviews, Treaties
CEB Practice Libraries

LLMCDigital- Federal Documents
Westlaw- All States & Federal, Keycite
Shepards

OCPLL will be closed for the following Court Holidays

February 13, Abraham Lincoln's Birthday (observed)

February 20, Presidents' Day

March 31, Cesar Chavez Day

May 29, Memorial Day

Regular Library Hours

Monday-Thursday	8 am-8 pm
Friday	8 am-6 pm
Saturday	9 am-6 pm

◻ *During construction, hours may change* ◻

The Orange County Public Law Library
derives its income from a portion of the filing fees in civil cases heard in the
Superior Courts of Orange County, rather than from general tax funds.

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